

# Euro-Atlantic Forum on Democracy and Security: Our Freedom and Yours

**Kraków, September 10-11th, 2023**

*“We must plan for freedom, and not only for security, if for no other reason than only freedom can make security more secure.”*

Karl R. Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*

## About the Forum

The Euro-Atlantic Forum on Democracy and Security: Our Freedom and Yours is dedicated to the analysis and discussion of societal and geopolitical changes affecting democracies globally and in the specific context of CEE and Eurasia. Processes such as the growth of populism, authoritarian tendencies as well as polarization, undermine democracies internally. They coincide with external threats coming from autocratic regimes wishing to destabilize the liberal, rule-based international order. We believe that internal and external challenges to democracy and rule-based international order are highly interrelated. Too often phenomena such as democratic backsliding, populist nationalism, and culture wars have been analyzed as if they were isolated from the international arena. Likewise, international challenges such as trade wars, proxy wars, or aggressive foreign policies have been studied without too much attention paid to their domestic context. Hence the need for an honest discussion on the state of democratic societies in the context of the changing international order.

Open societies have their enemies, but they also have the ability to self-reflect. The Euro-Atlantic Forum on Democracy and Security: Our Freedom and Yours provides a platform for such self-reflection. The project consists of two parts: a conference and the Young Leaders



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Summer School. The conference will be attended by policymakers, intellectuals, journalists, and academics.

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, there have been many statements signaling the entry into a new era of global international relations. Russian aggression has become widely interpreted as a sign of the transformation of the international structure. President Joe Biden conceptualized this new international order as a global clash between democracy and authoritarianism. By both international observers and policymakers, Russia's aggression against its neighbor is interpreted on the one hand as an expression of Russia's eternal imperial aspirations, and on the other – as a reflection of the great power rivalry.

The forum intends to examine the nature of these phenomena and processes. Its goal is to bring together political leaders, intellectuals, and media professionals to discuss ways of defending and strengthening democracies in an interdependent world.

## Agenda

The project involves organizing a two-day international forum in Kraków, with participants from Europe, the United States and Asia. The forum will aim to identify and describe the changes taking place in liberal democracies within the Euro-Atlantic region and determine their scale and effects. It will consist of 11 panels held over two days.

The scheduled date of the forum is September 10th -11th 2023. The forum will be reported on different social media platforms, allowing for a larger audience reach. Audio-visual recordings of the forum will also be available on the website.

Languages: English and Polish. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Venue: Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University, Krupnicza 33 str.

## Programme

### Day 1: Securing Democracy

#### 9:30 - Registration

#### 10:00 – Opening remarks

#### 10.30-11:30 Political leadership in an era of disruption.

*The instability of modern times has many consequences, among which is the weakening of the authority of government. What does it take for politicians to gain the public trust necessary to maintain their positions?*

- Agnieszka Turska-Kawa - director of the Institute of Political Science at the University of Silesia
- Hans-Gert Pöttering – former President of the European Parliament, former Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Jerzy Baczyński - editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine 'Polityka'

Moderator: Dorota Wysocka-Schnepf - journalist of "Gazeta Wyborcza"

#### 11:45-13:00 Populism and the quest for dignity

*Populism, cited among the most important contemporary challenges facing liberal democracies, especially in the context of the rapid growth of social media and related phenomena. Panel members will consider the possible long-term consequences of pursuing such a political narrative.*

- Marjorie Castle – professor of Political Science, University of Utah
- Jarosław Kurski - deputy editor-in-chief of "Gazeta Wyborcza"
- Łukasz Fyderek – associate professor, Jagiellonian University; Senior Policy Fellow at the Institute for Strategic Studies

Moderator: Agnieszka Lichnerowicz - Tok FM radio journalist

#### 13:00-14:00 Lunch



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### **14:00-15:00 Implications of Russia's War against Ukraine**

*The year 2022 was a turning point - first and foremost for the people of Russia-attacked Ukraine, but also for world politics. The long-term effects of the war on Ukraine and the rest of the world are not yet known, but the distribution of power and the international order as we know it so far are being redefined.*

- Camille Grand – Distinguished Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), former Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment NATO
- Ben Hodges - Human Rights First, NATO Senior Mentor for Logistics, former commanding general, United States Army Europe
- Jarosław Stróżyk – former Deputy Director of the Intelligence Board of the International Military Staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- (TBC) Wasyl Zwarycz - Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland

Moderator: Robert Pszczel – former director of the NATO Information Office in Moscow (2010-2015).

### **15:15-16:15 Combating polarization and disinformation**

*The phenomena of polarization and disinformation and their impact on political sentiment, inherent in the rise of social media, are now widely reported, especially in the context of Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The panelists will consider ways to combat the increasing polarization of more and more areas of political reality.*

- Dalibor Rohac - Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI)
- Maia Mazurkiewicz - Vice President, European Free Media Association, Co-founder & Head of StratComm, Alliance4Europe
- Dariusz Rosiak – Author of “Raport o stanie świata” Podcast
- Dominika Hajdu - Director, Centre for Democracy & Resilience at GLOBSEC

Moderator: Marcin Zaborowski - Policy Director, Future of Security Programme at GLOBSEC

### **16:15-17:15 Role of civil society in limiting political polarization**

*The role of civil society in the contemporary balance of power and authority in all regions of the world is increasing, including in the area of combating increasing polarization.*



- David Gregosz - Head of Office Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Poland
- Jakub Wygnański - President of the Management Board of the Laboratory for Social Research and Innovation "Shipyard"
- Akkan Suver - President of the Marmara Group Foundation

Moderator: Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves – University professor in the Department of Philosophy of Politics, Associate Dean of the Faculty of International and Political Studies for Science and Internationalization Jagiellonian University

## Day 2: Democratizing Security

### 9:30 - Registration

### 10:00-10.30 Mark Brzeziński – United States Ambassador to Poland - keynote speech

*We are pleased to invite you to meet our keynote speaker, Marek Brzezinski, US Ambassador to Poland, who during his speech will outline the issues discussed in the following panels, as well as reflect on the challenges facing democracy and security from a diplomat's perspective.*

### 10:30-11:45 Ukraine, NATO and a great power rivalry

*This panel will focus on the challenges facing Ukraine and NATO in the context of great power rivalry. The long-term results and consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine are not yet known - however, we can discern several important trends that relate to this critical moment for the future of the international order and institutions. Speakers will discuss the historical context, current events and potential future scenarios for the current situation of Ukraine and the rest of the world.*

- Dominik Jankowski - Policy Adviser in the Office of the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg
- Rolf Nickel – Vice President of the German Council on Foreign Relations, Vice President of the Deutsches Polen-Institut, former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Poland
- Eugeniusz Smolar – former President of the Center for International Relations



Moderator: Urszula Gacek – former permanent representative to the Council of Europe and Consul General in New York

**12:00-13:15 Defending rule based order against neo-imperialism**

*The panel will outline the threads into the new geopolitical dynamics and its relationship to the international rules-based order, particularly the threads of sovereignty, international cooperation and diplomacy.*

- Dominique David - Advisor to the Executive Chairman of IFRI, editor-in-chief of *Politique étrangère* and co-director of RAMSES
- Daniel Fried – former United States Ambassador to Poland, Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow of the Atlantic Council
- Bogdan Klich – Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the European Union, former Minister of Defense of Poland
- Alena Kudzko - Vice President for Policy and Programming at GLOBSEC

Moderator: Piotr Łukasiewicz – former Polish Ambassador to Afghanistan, analyst at ‘Polityka Insight’

**13:15-14:15 Lunch hosted by Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Kraków**

**14:00-15:30 Changing contexts of European integration and security**

*In recent years, public discourse has increasingly returned to traditional security themes - including the rivalry of great powers. At the same time, especially since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the notion of "security" and "integration" has also begun to fall in areas such as economic and health policy. In migration policy, the most pronounced change taking place, particularly since the so-called "refugee crisis" in 2015, is the militarization of borders in Europe - particularly the militarization of the EU's external border.*

- Roland Freudenstein - Vice President and Head of GLOBSEC Brussels
- Werner Fasslabend – former Minister of Defense of Austria
- Michał Baranowski - Managing Director, GMF East & Regional Director, Poland

Moderator: Artur Gruszczak – Professor of Faculty of International and Political Studies Jagiellonian University, Head of the Chair in National Security.



### **15:45-16:45 NATO's China Challenge**

*China's aggressive policy in the East Asian region has been formally recognized as a "systemic challenge" to NATO values, interests and security. Russia's aggression in Ukraine has caused the West to consider the challenge of a rising China differently.*

- Alicja Bachulska – PhD, Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)
- (TBC) Łukasz Gacek – Associate Professor at the Institute of the Near and Far East, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Head of the Department of China, Jagiellonian University
- Robert Pszczel - former director of the NATO Information Office in Moscow (2010-2015).

Moderator: Adrian Brona – PhD, Jagiellonian University

### **16:45-17:45 – Thinking about Grand Strategy for Poland**

- Piotr Buras - Director of the Warsaw office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)
- Łukasz Fyderek – Associate Professor at the Institute of the Near and Far East, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Head of the Department of China, Jagiellonian University
- Piotr Łukasiewicz - former Polish Ambassador to Afghanistan, analyst at 'Polityka Insight'
- Karolina Olszowska – PhD, Jagiellonian University, Instytut Badań nad Turcją

Moderator: Robert Pszczel - former director of the NATO Information Office in Moscow (2010-2015).

**17:45** - Closing reception

